

IN HONOR OF PULASKI POST 30

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Polish Legion of American Veterans Pulaski Post 30 in Cleveland, OH on its sixty-fifth anniversary.

Founded in 1993, Pulaski Post 30 has served the community as a patriotic, civil, and religious center. These veterans have established themselves as a viable force in the Tremont area, dedicated to public service. Through the years, members of the Pulaski Post have serviced veterans at local veterans hospitals with thousands of hours of assistance. The post is dedicated to community programs, such as encouraging members and others to participate in donating blood to the Red Cross. Pulaski Post 30 has a distinguished uniformed rifle and ritual squad that carries out patriotic ceremonies and performs in parades and funerals. Throughout the years, many of the Pulaski Post's members have succeeded in public service or in the private sector, including distinguished elected officials, judges, doctors, and accountants. This organization has clearly distinguished itself as an important community force in the Tremont area.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting a patriotic organization, committed to upholding American values: Pulaski Post 30 of the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

THE LYME DISEASE INITIATIVE  
OF 1998**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 1998*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing comprehensive legislation—The Lyme Disease Initiative of 1998—to jump start a world-class, coordinated campaign to fight Lyme Disease. This \$100 million federal initiative will, for the first time, establish a prominent, coordinated federal role in Lyme Disease research, treatment, and education. Various agencies within the federal government have done some good work in the Lyme issue, but these short term efforts have been hampered by a lack of interagency coordination, inconsistent funding and limited agency staff attention. The Lyme Disease Initiative changes all that.

Five year plan of action.—First, my bill calls for a 5 year plan to be established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and outside experts to advance the treatment of and a cure for Lyme Disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, various agencies within the Defense Department have all worked on Lyme disease. Too often, however, the left hand does not know what the right hand has discovered and true advancement is hampered.

For example, in 1994 I pushed through a provision directing the DOD to conduct \$850,000 in Lyme Disease research. Tick

borne diseases remains a continuing concern for DOD, particularly with many of our soldiers at risk of tick bites. Regrettably, much of DOD's valuable research under this study never made its way to our other health experts at the Department of Health and Human Services. My new legislation will correct this problem.

Four public health goals.—Sadly much of our Lyme research has been hit and miss with no clear cut goals and no specific purpose for federal expertise and resources. My bill sets out four critical public health goals that will advance the Lyme research efforts:

Goal #1: Develop an objective detection test for Lyme that can determine whether an individual bitten by a tick has Lyme Disease. Designates a reliable detection test as the single most important public health goal.

Goal #2: A review of CDC's reporting and surveillance systems. Among the changes to be considered are (1) a more uniform system of reporting and (2) collecting and analyzing Lyme case data that does not currently meet CDC's strict surveillance criteria.

Goal #3: More accurate and timely Lyme diagnosis. A study shall be initiated to examine patterns of diagnosis and treatment of patients.

Goal #4: Physician Education. A full-scale effort shall be taken to educate treating physicians on how to properly diagnose and treat Lyme Disease.

Other major provisions in the bill include:

Section 4. Establishing a Lyme Disease Taskforce to provide advice and expertise to Congress and federal agencies on all areas of Lyme Disease policy.

Section 5. Requiring Annual Reports be submitted to Congress on the progress of NIH, CDC, and DOD with respect to the goals and programs funded and specified in this bill.

Section 7. \$100 Million Over Five Years. An authorization of \$100 million over five years is needed to ensure sufficient resources for consistent, critical scientific, medical research. The bill authorizes: \$45 million in additional authorization for the National Institutes of Health, \$40 million in additional authorization for the Centers for Disease Control, and \$15 million in additional authorization for the Department of Defense.

Section 8. Lyme Disease Vaccines. The bill urges the Food and Drug Administration to conduct a rapid and thorough review of new Lyme Disease vaccine applications so that people who are already suffering are given new hope.

I am joined today by Rep. JIM MALONEY (CT), Rep. MIKE PAPPAS, Rep. JIM SAXTON, and Rep. SAM GEJDENSON in urging the relevant Committees to give this bipartisan legislation its due consideration. On the Senate side, I am pleased that Sen. CHRIS DODD will be introducing the companion legislation to my bill.

For too long, Lyme patients have suffered and languished under a medical system that cannot meet their needs because of unreliable diagnostic tests and incomplete physician understanding of this emerging infectious disease. My legislation will turn the tide and enable people to fully enjoy the outdoors once again without the fear of contracting a very serious disease.

THE LYME DISEASE INITIATIVE  
OF 1998**HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 1998*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to join Mr. CHRIS SMITH in sponsoring "The Lyme Disease Initiative of 1998."

In my home state of New Jersey, Lyme disease has increased over 30% since 1996. As you may know, Lyme disease is an illness that results from a bite from an infected deer tick. Those infected with Lyme disease experience symptoms ranging from the flu to debilitating arthritis. First identified in Lyme, Connecticut almost two decades ago, there have roughly been 82,000 cases of Lyme disease reported in 48 states. Between 1995 and 1996 alone, the United States experienced a 13% increase nation wide in this disease. The ticks that carry Lyme, which are about the size of a poppy seed, feed at this time of year.

The State of New Jersey currently ranks third in the nation in cases of reported Lyme disease. According to statistics compiled by the Centers for Disease Control of counties in the United States, four of the five counties in the twelfth Congressional District of New Jersey are in the top seventy in terms of reported cases per 100,000 people.

The "Lyme Disease Initiative of 1998" will help to define and solve the growing epidemic of Lyme Disease in the United States. By creating a Lyme Disease Task Force, the accurate diagnosis of Lyme disease will be encouraged, more cases will be reported and better treatments will be proposed. Additionally, this legislation authorizes additional funding for Lyme research through the National Institute of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleague Mr. SMITH in presenting this bill to the United States House of Representatives. I believe it is an important step in battling the spread of Lyme Disease in our country.

THE CAMPUS OF LEARNERS:  
BRINGING EDUCATION AND COM-  
PUTER TECHNOLOGY TO PUBLIC  
HOUSING COMMUNITIES**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 1998*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring your attention to a revolutionary Department of Housing and Urban Development program—the Campus of Learners Initiative, which is now being implemented in Union City, New Jersey. The mission of the Campus of Learners is to heighten the role of local Public Housing Authorities as a catalyst for residents to become self-sufficient. The initiative is designed so that local housing authorities have the resources to develop their own creative strategic plans to provide for education, job training, and employment opportunities through computer and telecommunications technology in campus setting.

I am proud to announce that the Housing Authority of Union City, New Jersey has responded to HUD's initiative by opening the